

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 14 through page 6, line 2 with the following rewritten paragraph.

To achieve the above aims, the present invention ~~according to Claim 1~~ is directed to a method for applying a marking to an object to be marked by irradiating a laser beam onto the object. The method comprises the steps of: preparing an object to be marked which is made of a material of PTFE; irradiating a laser beam onto the object to be marked to alter the state of only an irradiated surface of the PTFE; and forming a marking with a white-based color on the irradiated surface of the PTFE so that the irradiated surface exhibits a color tone different from that of a non-irradiated surface of the PTFE.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 3 through line 15 with the following rewritten paragraph.

The invention ~~of Claim 2~~ is directed to a product marked by a method for applying a marking to an object to be marked by irradiating a laser beam onto the object, comprising the steps of: preparing an object to be marked which is made of a material of PTFE; irradiating a laser beam onto the object to be marked to alter the

state of only an irradiated surface of the PTFE; and forming a marking with a white-based color on the irradiated surface of the PTFE so that the irradiated surface exhibits a color tone different from that of a non-irradiated surface of the PTFE.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 16 through line 22 with the following rewritten paragraph.

In a marking method ~~according to Claim 1~~ and a product ~~according to Claim 2~~, it is possible to readily apply a marking with a white-based color to an object to be marked, which is made of PTFE. Accordingly, when it is necessary to identify a product made of PTFE, it is possible to easily perform an identifying work.